I.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY

FISHGUARD AND GOODWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR

1967

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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PREFACE TO THE REPORT

District Health Office,
County Health Department,
Merlin's Hill,
Haverfordwest.

To:- The Chairman and Members of
The Fishguard and Goodwick U.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We present the Annual Report for the year 1967. The main items are summarised as follows:-

Population

There has been little or no increase in the estimated population over the past few years. There has been an increase in population of 7% since 1947.

Births

There was an increased birth rate for the year comparing favourably with the national rate.

There were no still births. The number of illegitimate births increased over the preceding year.

Deaths

The general death rate improved over the preceding year, but is still higher than the national rate.

There were no infant deaths. There was a considerable reduction in the number of deaths attributed to cancer. On the other hand there was a small increase in the deaths attributed to accidents and tuberculosis.

Infectious Diseases

Apart from measles, the District was almost free from infectious disease during the year. A high level of immunisation is maintained amongst the child population.

During 1968, immunisation against measles will commence.

Environmental Hygiene

Sampling results showed a satisfactory standard of purity of water supplies, milk and ice-cream.

The amount of foodstuffs condemned was small, and no cases of food poisoning were reported.

The housing situation continues to improve, due to a progressive housing policy of the Council over the past few years.

Progress on the new sewerage and disposal system continues to be rather slow. In the meantime, the efficiency of the old system continues to deteriorate.

Public cleansing, refuse collection, rodent control, etc., continue to be satisfactory. In general, a high standard of sanitation and hygiene is maintained in the District.

Conclusion

We would wish to thank other officers of the Council and their staff for their assistance, and the members of the Council for their co-operation and courtesy during the year.

We remain,
Your obedient servants,

W.J.Y. SPEEDY,
Medical Officer of Health

O. L. THOMAS
Public Health Inspector

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 1967/68

Chairman of the Council		Councillor Mrs. B. M. Timothy, J.P.
Vice-Chairman of the Council		Councillor S. Thomas

Public Health Committee

Chairman	Councillor D.R.E. Williams
Members	" Mrs. Brenda M. Evans
	" Carey M. George, J.P.
	" Michael P. Sparkes
	" T.E.R. Beaumont
	" T. Haydn John
	" Miss K. Marshall
	" E.V. Morgans
	" Mrs. B.M. Timothy, J.P.
	" S. Thomas

Housing Committee

Chairman	Councillor Carey M. George, J.P.
Members	" Miss D. Davies Evans
	" Mrs. Brenda M. Evans
	" J.J. Nicholas
	" Bowen J. George
	" Miss K. Marshall
	" E.V. Morgans
	" D.R.E. Williams
	" Mrs. B.M. Timothy, J.P.
	" S. Thomas

OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL 1967/68

		Date of Appointment
Clerk	Elwyn H. Evans	1/4/66
Surveyor	B.I. Evans, F.R.S.A., F.F.S., M.R.S.H.	17/8/64
Public Health Inspector	Owen L. Thomas, P.H.I.A.	1/6/55
Medical Officer of Health	W.J.Y. Speedy, M.B., B.Ch., L.R.C.P. & S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.	1/10/67

All Departments of the Council	Town Hall, Fishguard. Tel. - Fishguard 2247
Medical Officer of Health	District Health Office, County Health Department, Merlins Hill, Haverfordwest. Tel. - Haverfordwest 3345

PART I

VITAL STATISTICS

and

EPIDEMIOLOGY

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

General Death Rate	.....	13.5/1000 population
General Birth Rate	.....	17.1/ " "
Cancer Death Rate	.....	1.2/ " "
Infant Mortality Rate	.....	Nil

Population Table

Year	Estimated Population	Natural Increase
1947	4,660	32
1948	4,773	14
1949	4,775	13
1950	4,827	6
1951	4,827	Nil
1952	4,875	21
1953	4,826	20
1954	4,880	- 1
1955	4,860	- 3
1956	4,810	- 10
1957	4,770	3
1958	4,760	2
1959	4,770	- 11
1960	4,740	6
1961	4,850	- 7
1962	4,880	- 7
1963	4,880	Nil
1964	4,940	2
1965	4,960	- 6
1966	4,970	- 10
1967	4,970	2

Birth Statistics

Classification of births

	Live			Still		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	30	35	65	Nil		
Illegitimate	2	4	6	Nil		
Total	32	39	71	Nil		

General Birth Rates

Birth rate for District, 1967 = 17.1/1000 population

Birth rate for England and Wales, 1967 = 17.2/ " "

Comparative Birth Table

Year	Birth Rate	Still Births	Illegitimate Births
1947/66 Average	15.0	2	2
1967	17.1	0	6

MORTALITY STATISTICS

Classification of Deaths

	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of heart and circulatory system	21	19	40
Diseases of brain and nervous system	4	6	10
Diseases of respiratory system	6	2	8
Cancer (all forms)	3	3	6
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1	1	2
Accidental deaths	2	-	2
Diseases of digestive system	0	1	1
Total =	37	32	69

General Death Rates

Death rate for District for 1967 = 13.5/1000 population
" " " England and Wales, 1967 = 11.2/ " "

Deaths in age groups

0 - 1 years	= 0	30 - 50 years	= 4
1 - 15 "	= 1	50 - 70 "	= 29
15 - 30 "	= 0	70+ "	= 35

Cancer Mortality Classification

	Male	Female	Total
Abdominal	1	0	1
Respiratory	1	0	1
Others	1	3	4
Total =	3	3	6

Age groups: 30 - 50 years = 2 50 - 70 years = 1 70+ = 3

Death Rate

Cancer death rate for District = 1.2/1000 population
" " " England and Wales = 2.3/ " "

Infant Mortality

Nil for 1967

Accidental and Violent Deaths

2 male - suicide

Tuberculosis Deaths

1 male, 1 female 50 - 70 years age group.

Comparative Mortality Table

Year	Death Rate	Infant Deaths	Cancer Deaths	Accidental Deaths	Tuberculosis Deaths
1947/66 Average	13.7	1.8	10.3	1.5	0.7
1967	13.5	0	6	2	2

Infectious Disease

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

		Male	Female	Total
Measles	.....	16	20	36
Pulmonary Tuberculosis (30-50 years = 1) (50+ years = 1)	.....	2	-	2

Immunisations and Vaccinations

The following is a summary for the County of immunisations and vaccinations for the year 1967

	Primary	Boosters	Total
Diphtheria	1,899	2,132	4,031
Whooping Cough	1,716	-	1,716
Tetanus	1,960	2,175	4,135
Poliomyelitis	1,840	1,315	3,155
Smallpox	942	209	1,151
Yellow Fever	96	-	96
B.C.G. Vaccinations	1,131	-	1,131
Cholera	20	-	20
Plague	Nil	Nil	Nil

Routine immunisation against measles will commence during 1968

PART II

ENVIRONMENTAL

HYGIENE

Water Supplies

The whole of the Urban District is covered with a piped supply distributed by the Pembrokeshire Water Board.

The sources of supply remain the same as existed before the formation of the Pembrokeshire Water Board, no further sources being added to the Fishguard area of the Board's Undertaking. An adequate supply was available throughout the year and no restrictions on use were called for.

During the year, 43 samples of mains water were taken for bacteriological examination. The Bacteriologist reported the following results:-

Satisfactory	39
Doubtful	Nil
Unsatisfactory	4
	43

The average daily consumption remains around 250,000 gallons.

The number of new premises connected to the water mains during the year was 32

The number of services renewed was 71

Milk Supplies

There are five main distributors of milk in the District. Both pasteurised and raw milk are available throughout the area.

During the year, 41 samples were taken at consumer level for bacteriological examination. The results were:-

Satisfactory	39
Unsatisfactory	2
	41

Six samples of milk taken for biological examination gave no negative results.

Ice Cream Supplies

There is one ice cream factory in the District situated at Tower Hill, Fishguard. This is a small modern plant which prepares a complete cold mix which is retailed locally.

There are 24 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. All but three of these handle only pre-packed ices from continuous refrigerators. Mobile vans also serve throughout the District. Hard ice cream only is served.

During the year 23 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Bacteriologist reported:-

Grade I	Highly Satisfactory	22
Grade II	Satisfactory	1
Grade III	Doubtful	Nil
Grade IV	Unsatisfactory	Nil
		23

Bake houses

There are three bakehouses in the urban area where bread, cakes and confectionery are made. A ll have oil fired ovens. A satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Butchers and Meat Purveyors

There are seven butchers shops in the District where home killed and imported meat is sold.

There is no slaughterhouse in the District. All home killed meat is slaughtered and dressed at the Public Abbatoir, Withybush, Haverfordwest, which is owned and controlled by the Haverfordwest Rural District Council. The quality of meat sold in the District is of a fairly high standard and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained throughout. The butchers prepare a limited quantity of minced meat to customers requirements.

Retail Food Stores

There are 25 grocery and general food stores in the urban area. All these premises are adequately equipped with facilities for keeping foods in a wholesome condition. Sanitary accommodation and washing facilities are adequate and the general standard of cleanliness is satisfactory.

Catering Establishments

There are 19 establishments where light meals are served. These are in the main small family businesses. The standard of cleanliness is maintained at a satisfactory level.

Public Houses and Licensed Premises

There are 18 licensed premises and 3 registered clubs in the urban district. These are mostly small houses. The general standard of cleanliness in these houses is satisfactory.

There are three off-licenced premises also in the District.

Summary of Foods Condemned

221 tins of fruit
146 tins of meat
78 tins of fish
91 tins of soup
126 tins of vegetables
71 tins of milk and cream
3 boxes of biscuits
62 lbs. of sausages
5 cartons of ice cream powder.

All condemned foods are disposed of by burying on the Council's refuse tip.

Rodent Control

Rodent disinfestation is carried out by a part-time Rodent Operative. During the year 53 infestations were dealt with.

Business premises and private dwellings are treated by use of a Warfarin treated oatmeal.

The sewers and open spaces are pre-baited with bread mash and sausage rusk followed by arsenic or zinc phosphide treated bait.

There were no major infestations during the year.

Public Conveniences

There are 5 all purpose public conveniences in the area situated at:-

The Market Square, Fishguard
Car Park, West Street, Fishguard
The Quay, Lower Fishguard
Promenade, Goodwick
Quay Road, Goodwick

The conveniences on the Promenade, Goodwick and the Quay, Lower Fishguard are closed during the winter months.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Collection

The main shopping centre is swept daily and streets off the main road are swept at frequent intervals. Litter baskets are conveniently situated throughout the district.

Household refuse is collected once weekly from all dwellings in the area. Trade refuse is collected weekly from the business premises in addition to the normal refuse collection. A small charge is made to traders regarding this extra service.

All refuse is disposed of by tipping on the moorland adjoining Wern Road, Goodwick. To minimise nuisance from this form of disposal, builders' spoil, earth from roadworks and excavations, and brickworks spoil is used as a surface dressing.

General Nuisances

During the year 86 complaints were investigated and dealt with by informal action.

Nuisances arising from keeping of animals	3
Abated after informal action	3
Nuisances arising from accumulations of refuse	1
Abated after informal action	1
Nuisances arising from cesspits requiring emptying	7
Abated after informal action	7
Nuisances arising from choked drains	28
Abated after informal action	28
Nuisances arising from disrepair of dwellings	39
Abated after informal action	39
Nuisances arising from defective water service pipes	8
Abated after informal action	8

Sewage Disposal

The majority of dwellings in the Fishguard and Goodwick area are connected to the main sewer system. Disposal of sewage is by the discharge of crude sewage into the sea.

There are three main outfalls situated as follows:-

(1) The Slade, Fishguard
(2) Ogof Martha, Fishguard
(3) Harbour Extension, Goodwick

The Council has instructed Messrs. Ward, Ashcroft and Parkman, Civil Engineers, to prepare a scheme for sewage disposal suitable and sufficient for the area. Considerable progress has been made in preparing proposals for a new sewage disposal scheme for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Disinfection and Disinfestation

The department was not called upon to disinfect any premises during the year.

Three infestations of ants and cockroaches were dealt with during the year.

Mortuaries

One modern fully equipped mortuary is situated in Feidr Castell, High Street, Fishguard, and serves part of the adjoining authorities.

Elderly Persons Living Alone

There is a large number of elderly persons living alone in the District.

All of these persons are capable of looking after themselves. Near relatives or neighbours make frequent visits to them. An active Senior Citizens Committee in Fishguard and Goodwick keep the welfare of this section of the community very much in the public mind.

Housing

Council Housing Estates

Pre-War	Wallis Crescent, Fishguard	7
	Heol-y-felin, Goodwick	32
Post War	Maeshyfryd, Fishguard	179
	Stop and Call, Goodwick	86
	Main Street, Goodwick	3

Number of new Council houses completed during the year	18
Number of private houses completed during the year	14
Number of loans made for purchase and improvements during the year	32
Number of improvement grants approved during the year	50
Number of improvements completed during the year	34

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

There are 74 premises registered under the Act, made up as follows:-

Offices ...	17
Retail Shops ...	43
Wholesale Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments	9
	74

The retail shops in the area are mainly family businesses with living quarters at the rear and over. All these premises are connected to the mains water supply and public sewer system and have all the usual domestic amenities, sanitary accommodation and washing facilities.

There are 12 premises in the District used solely for office purposes. These are mostly large houses converted into offices and have the usual domestic sanitary facilities.

The standard of lighting from a natural point of view is not altogether of the high standard required for office work, but with artificial lighting a satisfactory standard is achieved.

One application for a Grant of Extension of Exemption under Section 46 of the Act was received and granted in respect of the temporary building used in connection with the transit of vehicles through Fishguard Harbour.

NATURE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PORT OF FISHGUARD

The nature of the activities of the Port of Fishguard is the trade with Southern Ireland.

The ships that ply regularly between Fishguard and Eire are:-

Fishguard and Rosslare	- S.S. Duke of Rothesay (Captain D.O. Griffiths)
	- S.S. Saint David (Captain H. H. Coney)
Fishguard and Waterford	- M.V. Edin Fisher (Captain R. Brown)
Fishguard and Cork	- M.V. Innisfallen (Captain F. Daveney)
District Marine Manager and Harbour Master	- Captain E.A. Bradshaw
Station and Quay Superintendent	- Mr. D. A. Smythe
Surveyor of Customs	- Mr. B. J. Morgan

Port Activities

Fishguard Harbour remains in the control of the British Railways Board and the nature of the traffic passing through remains the same as in previous years.

Passenger Traffic

Passenger traffic to and from Ireland is heavy during the summer months and continues on a moderate scale throughout the year.

There are normally three sailings each week between Cork and Fishguard, and three sailings between Rosslare and Fishguard.

During the summer months the sailings between Rosslare and Fishguard are increased to cope with the tourist trade. Drive On and Off facilities are available on these sailings. The number of passengers passing through the Port during the year 1967 was 376,441. The number of cars passing through during the same period was 61,541 made up as follows:-

To Rosslare	27,283
To Cork	3,611
From Rosslare	27,558
From Cork	3,089
	61,541

Cargo Traffic

The principal import remains livestock and the following animals were landed during the year:-

Horses	1,318
Cattle	23,824
Donkeys	474
Pigs	26
	25,642

There are excellent facilities at the port for the reception of livestock.

All animals are fed, watered and rested on arrival at the port, and subjected to inspection by the Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and no animal leaves unless, or until, it is fit to travel.

Injured animals and those found to be unfit to travel within a reasonable time are slaughtered in the slaughterhouse at the lairages and the carcase inspected as to its fitness for human consumption before removal. During the year fifteen animals were slaughtered at the Port.

The following, found to be unfit for human consumption, were condemned:-

10 Bovine Livers
11 Bovine Lights
1 Bovine Head
2 Bovine Hearts

Other cargo consists of:-

From Ireland: Rough paper, tinned meats, milk powder, cream fish, fresh meat, bacon, leather, wool , hessian, confectionery, agricultural machinery.

To Ireland: Iron and steel, knocked down motor cars, complete for reassembling, agricultural machinery, wool, bricks, tinplate, manufactured goods.

To facilitate handling and transport, the bulk of cargo is now carried in containers.

Water Supplies

The source of supply still remains the same as last year, and no shortage was experienced during the year. Samples are checked daily at the purification plant at the harbour, and quarterly samples are taken by the British Railways Board scientific department and conveyed to the Research Department, Swindon, for detailed examination.

During the year 16 samples were taken and found to be of a satisfactory drinking water quality.

Rodent Control of the Port

Regular visits are made to the harbour by the Rodent Operators of the British Railways Board. The Quay, Wharves and Sheds are inspected and treated as required.

Inspection of Ships

The ships using the Port are periodically inspected when particular attention is given to the crews quarters and galley. The crews quarters and food supplies are also subjected to inspection by the Inspectors of the Ministry of Transport.

A high standard of cleanliness is maintained throughout the ships. Twenty six inspections of the ships were made during the year.

Rodent Control of the Ships

There are no facilities for the de-ratting of ships at Fishguard.

The ships regularly plying from the Port are inspected every four months and where found free of pests are issued with Rodent Control Exemption Certificates. During the year, 6 Rodent Exemption Certificates were issued.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

There is a weekly collection of refuse from the harbour by the Council's refuse collection department.

Refuse from the ships which can be disposed of by burning is brought ashore and disposed of by incineration, together with the bedding and other refuse from the lairages.

Every effort is made to prevent dumping of refuse into the harbour and refuse disposal points are placed at convenient points on the docks.

It was not found necessary to draw the attention of the Harbour-master to refuse in the tide during the year.

Sewage Disposal

Sewage is discharged into the sea from an outfall at the Harbour extension. No complaints have been received as a result of this practice.

Shipping Entering the Port During the Year

Ships From	No. of Ships	Total Tonnage	No. of Ships Inspected By M.O.H.	By P.H.I.	No. of Ships Reporting Infectious Disease on Board
Foreign Ports	-	-	-	-	-
Eire	754	2,530,916		26	
Other Countries	-	-	-	-	-
Total	754	2,530,916	-	26	-

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